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THE

MONTHLY



Volume 50

Berkeley, Calif.

December 1968

Number 12

THE HUPPES TO SHOW SLIDES OF NAVAJO LAND

Charles and Asta Huppe of the Oakland Camera Club will present their new slide-and-sound program on birds, wildflowers and Indian ruins in the Navajo lands of the Southwest at the Golden Gate Audubon meeting **Thursday, December 12**, in the Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. Their photographs will also include Bryce and Zion Canyons.

Mr. and Mrs. Huppe have won many awards and medals in national and international photographic competitions. Last January they gave us an outstanding program on Anaho Island's White Pelican colony with fascinating close-ups of nesting activities.

The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** The Hall of Flowers is on Ninth Avenue at Lincoln—a well lighted intersection at the edge of Golden Gate Park. Visitors are welcome. —MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP

Saturday, December 7—Bodega Bay. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the parking lot across the street from the Tides Motel & Restaurant at Bodega Bay. We'll go from there to Doran Park. There is a 50¢ admission charge for Doran Park. Bring Knapsack lunch. Leader to be announced.

MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Observers and recorders are needed for the following Christmas bird censuses:

Tomales Bay on December 28, Drake's Bay on December 29, Oakland on January 1, and also Western Sonoma County on December 21.

To volunteer for Tomales Bay and/or Oakland please write to Raymond Higgs, 3501 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94123. The organizer and compiler of the Drake's Bay Count will be Jack Guggolz, 685 Mesa Way, Richmond, CA 94805, phone 234-4298.

Madrone Audubon Society (Santa Rosa) needs help for the Western Sonoma County Christmas Count on Saturday, December 21, covering the territory of Bodega Bay, American Estero, Sonoma Coast, Jenner and the Russian River, and the coastal hills toward Sebastopol. If interested, write the organizer and compiler, Baron McLean, 1002 Danbeck Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

OAKLAND PARK NATURALIST PROGRAM

"Winter birds and winter tree styles in Lakeside Park" will be observed on **Saturday morning, December 14**, during a walk with the Park Naturalist, Paul Covel. The walk will leave the Natural Science Center at **9:30 a.m.**, returning before noon for a review of birds in the Center collections, according to the Oakland Park Department's *Naturalist Program*.

"A Tree Grows for Christmas" and "Wilderness Trail", two Forest Service films, will be shown in the Natural Science Center at **2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 22**. The Naturalist will give a slide talk, "Our Lake Through the Year", at **4:15 p.m.**

On Christmas Day, **December 25**, the Natural Science Center will have "Open House" from **1 to 4:30 p.m.** The Naturalist's talk in the duck feeding area will be at **3:30 p.m.** and the short film, "A Tree Grows for Christmas", will be presented at **4:15 p.m.**

"ISLAND TREASURE" COMING TO BERKELEY IN JANUARY

Save **Wednesday, January 8**, for the next Audubon Wildlife Film, "Island Treasure" by Walter J. Breckenridge on the fauna and flora of an island wilderness up the Mississippi. The program will begin at **8:15 p.m.** in Martin Luther King Jr. (Garfield) School Auditorium, Rose St. at Grant, Berkeley. Single admission: \$1.50 for adults; \$1.00 for students under 18.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM

This fall, for the third consecutive semester, Audubon Nature Training courses have had full enrollment. Since there has been limited formal publicity, we are encouraged to think that attendance is now self-generating, that is, our "graduates" voluntarily promote the program, and thus it advertises itself.

The writer is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Berkeley City Council on Aquatic Park. At our last meeting our program was presented to Mr. Dale E. Christiansen, the new Director of Recreation and Parks. In his previous position in Portland, Oregon, among his many activities in conservation and outdoor recreation, he served as a member of the Oregon Outdoor Education Council.

During the spring our finance committee worked with Recrcation and Parks Department staff toward some specific financial support from that Department in addition to the providing of a building and maintenance, and some mimeographing and mailing services. In this we had strong support from the citizens' organization, Friends of Aquatic Park. We are hopeful that an allocation for our program may be included in the city budget for 1969-70. These funds would not solve our perpetual financial dilemma, but would help substantially.

Janet Nickelsburg, our Education Chairman, writes to us:

"It's too bad that support isn't measured in numbers of people who have been influenced by the program. As I go about I run into more and more enthusiastic students, the number of enrollees constantly on the increase."

Friends of Aquatic Park, in their annual report to their membership, reports on our program, and says "The Nature Training Program has been highly praised by many national organizations concerned with teaching of understanding the natural environment to urban populations."

BERTHA UNDERHILL, *Director, CGAS.*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Education in High Gear was the inspiring theme of the 1968 Conference of the California Conservation Council at American River College, Sacramento, October 24 to October 26. Approximately 130 persons who attended represented a wide scope of federal, state and municipal agencies, private organizations and interested individuals. Your Education Chairman Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg, Miss Mary Jeffords, and your Conservation reporter attended nearly all sessions (this reporter wearing two hats).

Thanks to Senate Bill One passed by the last Legislature, California school administrators and teachers are directed to integrate Conservation into their curricula at all grade levels. Outdoor Education through school natural areas and school camping is also promoted through this and other acts. Mr. Rudy Schafer, Consultant in Conservation Education to the State Department of Education (under a federal grant) reported that over 50,000 California sixth graders participated in this camping program in 1967.

A unique demonstration in the history of these conferences was staged by Outward Bound Adventures of Los Angeles County. Several Negro and Mexican-American teen-agers and their adult supervisors showed how they introduced ghetto children to real outdoor adventure—from backpacking in the High Sierra to camping on the deserts of Baja California! We must hand it to Los Angeles City and County for their progress in developing small nature centers in canyon natural areas menaced by the urban sprawl.

Mr. Norman Marsh of Sacramento's Bowling Green School showed his now famous school nature area which started from scratch, and Ken Thol-laug of our local Husicon won a Conservation Award for his work with Richmond children in school camping.

Keynote luncheon speaker on Friday was Dr. Irving S. Bengelsdorf, Science Editor of the Los Angeles *Times*, who portrayed a grim picture of "Space Ship Earth—People and Pollution," and got a front page story in the local press. Another blast at capitalistic greed and political ignorance and indifference was issued by the Annual Awards Banquet speaker at the Mansion Inn session that same evening. This was Dr. Frank Tyson of the Institute of Urban Ecology of U.S.C., an urban planner of worldwide experience, who did see glimmers of hope and progress because of Americans' craving for beauty. In spite of many local and national victories, Dr. Tyson thinks the "war is being lost" and that all educators had better join the conservation and outdoor appreciation movement.

Reports of members of the State Conservation Education Advisory Committee featured the last general session on Saturday morning. Mrs.

Peggy Wayburn of the Sierra Club commended the National Audubon Society for providing nature-education materials at grade levels and Golden Gate Audubon for sponsoring Phyllis Lindley's program at Aquatic Park.

Hulet Hornbeek of the Eastbay Regional Parks staff was elected new President of the Council, succeeding Dr. Armand Sarafian of Pasadena.

Paul Howard and staff of the new Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society played host Saturday afternoon to many Council delegates. This attractive building on Audubon Place (off Fulton Ave. near Fair Oaks Blvd. in Sacramento) even boasts a small pond and grading for landscaping was just finished at this time.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BOAT TRIPS:

September 7th boat trip off Monterey—4,000 Sooty, 400 Pink-footed and 85 New Zealand Shearwaters, 25 Black and 25 Ashy Petrels, 1 *Wilson's Petrel* (probably 6th state record) 25 Pomarine and 7 Parasitic Jaegers and 2 *Skuas*, 25 Sabine's Gulls, 130 terns (thought to be 80% Arctic), 75 Northern and 7 Red Phalaropes, 2,000 Common Murres, 30 Cassin's and 2 Rhinoceros Auklets, 6 Xantus' Murrelets and 1 hummingbird species. Also 1 Fin whale, 6 Baird's and 10 White-sided Dolphins, 8 Dall Porpoises, 6 California Sea Lions and 1 *Northern Fur Seal*.

The October 5th boat trip produced more people than birds. (128 people) Usually this is the top boat trip of the year, but the birds were indeed scarce this day. Nevertheless, the day was a success for the passengers who flew in from the east coast primarily to take this trip, for almost every bird was new for them. A Pale-footed Shearwater was seen by birders on only one boat. (After the 128 people had signed in promptly at 9, one of the boats developed mechanical trouble and as a result we did not leave until 9:15.)

LAND TRIPS:

On September 21, forty members and friends learned bird banding operations on our field trip to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

On October 5-6, after the boat trip, three land trips were led by the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Tropical Kingbird, *Cape May* and 2 Palm Warblers and a Peetoral Sandpiper were seen near Point Pinos Lighthouse.

Barn Owls dominated trip #1 on October 19 on Point Reyes Peninsula. With every step we took on RCA overscas communications property we flushed 4 and 5 at a time. It seemed as though there might have been as many as 20 in that area, but we probably re-flushed the same owls. It would be more accurate to say we saw 10 Barn Owls. During our visit in that area a Great Horned Owl perched on a climbing spike on a nearby telephone pole. Dr. Howard Cogswell, who joined us that morning, pointed out (by the many pellets on the ground) that the owls were doing



POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Observatory

Located on the 50,000-acre Point Reyes National Seashore, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory has access to an extremely wide variety of habitats, ranging from montane-type meadows to ocean beach. The Observatory itself is picturesquely situated on the southern edge of the National Seashore overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The Observatory was founded in 1965 by a group of professional and amateur ornithologists interested in establishing a broadly-based research station to investigate the biology of western birds. On this basis the Observatory has expanded its program with the help and energies of scores of enthusiastic volunteers under the direction of professional biologists.

Individual memberships and donations to the Observatory's operations provide the majority of funds that make possible the many-faceted program of continuing basic research and expansion of study into areas where detailed research is indicated.



Breeding Seabirds

An intensive program was begun this year into the breeding biology of the ten species of sea birds nesting on the Farallon Islands. Some species occur -

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program by becoming a member. You are also invited to participate in the program itself. Help is always welcome at the Observatory.

The Observatory

Located on the 50,000-acre Point Reyes National Seashore, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory has access to an extraordinary variety of habitats.



Breeding Seabirds

An intensive program was begun this year into the breeding biology of the ten species of sea birds nesting on the Farallon Islands. Some species occurring on the islands have decreased in numbers in recent times, and a principal purpose of the research is to determine whether the changes in status of the birds are due to human activities or natural phenomena.



What You Can Do

Approximately 90% of the Observatory's work is done by volunteers under professional guidance. The funds received from memberships and donations thus make possible far more research than the conventional funding of usually conceived research station. You can assist this vital and dynamic program by becoming a member. You are also invited to participate in the program itself. Help is always welcome at the Observatory.

The Observatory

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The Program - Land Birds

For more than two years, the Observatory has carried out a continuous monitoring of the birds frequenting the area. This program includes netting and trapping the wide variety of migratory and resident birds which abound in the vicinity.

During 1968 this program was expanded to include the migrants on the Farallon Islands, some 18 miles directly offshore from the Observatory, which is the closest mainland location. The islands are world-famous as a location for migrant landfalls of several hundred species of birds, including many that are unusual in the western United States.

The information from these two programs, will give us much insight into the timing of migration movements and the physiology of the land birds found on the Pacific Coast. Many volunteers participate in both these programs, providing the continuity vital to such research.

Water Birds

With the cooperation of the National Park Service, the Observatory has carried out a year-round program of research into the population dynamics of shorebirds and other waterbirds on Limantour Esterio, a vital wintering area for many species. During the past year this program has expanded to include other areas of the Point Reyes National Seashore through aerial surveys.

Food Habit Studies

Research into the utilization of various habitats by land birds, coupled with analysis of vegetational types is progressing in the vicinity of the Observatory, and will be expanded to include other areas of the National Seashore. These studies will have a direct effect on our knowledge of the effects of grazing and other forms of land use upon various habitats and the birds they support.



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Member	\$ 5.00 Annually
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Point Reyes Bird Observatory is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of California.

All memberships and contributions (including memorial contributions) are deductible in computing income tax.

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Point Reyes Bird Observatory

a good job in keeping the rodent population down. A *Palm Warbler*, an unusual fall migrant, was seen in an adjoining field. About 35 resident and fall migrant birds were observed on trip #2, which took the Audubonites on a beautiful 9-mile round trip hike on Bear Valley trail.

Despite early torrential rains, 23 Audubon members and guests arrived at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor on November 2 and were rewarded through the entire trip by dry weather. This is a good area to study ducks, shorebirds, and gulls. On the northern nature trail 2 Blue-winged Teal were observed among a large flock of Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal. The highlight in the afternoon was the observation of 27 White-tailed Kites in one field on the southern nature trail. A great number of Tricolored Blackbirds were near the refuse area with the Redwings and Cowbirds. —MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

OBSERVATIONS

Sept. 18—*Black and White Warbler* at Rodeo Lagoon—observed by Bill Pursell, Bob and Val DaCosta.

Sept. 20—While escorting Richard C. Homes, a British Ornithologist, on his first visit to America, we saw male and female Black-throated Gray and 2 immature Hermit Warblers in Golden Gate Park.

Sept. 28—Common Tern perched on post in Rodeo Lagoon. In flight Common and Arctic Terns, as we often see them on our fall sea trips, cannot always be readily separated. (See Sept. 7th boat trip report)

Oct. 20–30 White Pelicans flying over Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County. Guiding an Air Force member, Paul Desjardins on his first California birding trip, I also found that day a small flock of 25 Elegant Terns in the Presidio area of San Francisco. Although 4 or 5 have been seen in the Bay all summer, this beautiful tern was not observed in great numbers this fall as in other years.

Oct. 22—18 Blaek Oystercatchers and 2 Wandering Tattlers near Bodega Head, new birds for GGAS's Air Force visitor and an Ohioan birder, Lynn McClanahan, who joined us for the day and since then joined our Society.

Oct. 24—60 White Pelicans sitting on sandbar at Dillon Beach.
—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA

Additional Observations received by "The Gull":

Sept. 24—Ron Branson found a *Northern Waterthrush* at Carmel River mouth and a *Blackpoll Warbler* at Pt. Sur, according to Alan Baldridge in the Monterey Peninsula Audubon "Sanderling".

Oct. 11—from Harry Adamson: "Oct. 11, 1968—in our backyard, foraging for a moment on the ground before moving on, one male *Black-throated Blue Warbler* in adult plumage. The breeding range in the Eastern U.S. includes as far west as northern Minnesota, and the bird winters

in the West Indies and Cuba. So it is strictly accidental in California, except possibly on the Farallons, where it might be a more regular vagrant. Needless to say, it was a new yard bird for us— number 123."

On October 16 Harry Adamson observed 38 species of birds in and from his yard in Lafayette during a 6-hour period. The complete list is in "The Quail" published by Mt. Diablo Audubon.

Oct. 14—Bud Fry found a Vesper Sparrow in Coyote Hills Regional Park.

Oct. 18—Henry E. Childs banded a female American Redstart in Oakland.

Oct. 22—Larry Curl observed a Pectoral Sandpiper at Rodeo Lagoon. Also a Ring-necked Duck.

Oct. 23—Bill Pursell found a Tropical Kingbird near RCA Station, Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Oct. 27—Pileated Woodpecker foraging near Forest Lake, adding to the fall color on Cobb Mountain (Lake County).—ED.

PELICANS AND SANDHILL CRANES WEAR COLORED TAGS

"White Pelicans from three different colonies have been banded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to trace the effects of pesticides on fish-eating birds. Pelicans were selected because they are conspicuous and easy to observe. Reports from birdwatchers who observe the birds as they move from the breeding grounds to winter habitat will contribute invaluable information to the project. The pelicans have been marked with wing tags of different colors and symbols. Observers are asked to note the color, symbol, which wing, the total number of pelicans in the flock as well as the place, time, date, and any activity among the birds.

"Seventy-five birds have been marked from each of three colonies: Anaho, Pyramid Lake; Clear Lake in Northeastern California; and Tule Lake. Mr. James O. Keith, P. O. Box C, Davis, is responsible for this research project for the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife.

"Twenty-five Greater Sandhill Cranes were captured, banded with colored streamers attached to the bands, and released at Malheur Refuge near Burns, Oregon during the summer. John C. Scharaff, refuge manager for the Bureau, reports that the purpose is to gain more information on the location of wintering grounds of cranes breeding at Malheur Refuge. Five were banded in May with red, blue and/or green streamers attached to the bands. The remaining cranes were banded the last week in August and a fluorescent red streamer was attached.

"Individuals spotting any of these birds are asked to call or write the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Capitol Mall, or the Department of Fish and Game, Resources Building, Sacramento."—*The Observer*, Sacramento Audubon Society.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of Audubon Canyon Ranch, Sequoia Audubon Society was made a full partner with Golden

Gate and Marin Audubon Societies in the Ranch. Sequoia's President, Dr. Howard Gurevitz and six other members were made directors.

Canyon Ranch is now open to organized groups by appointment during week days only. The Ranch will remain closed on week-ends until March 1. Teachers, group leaders and others interested in Canyon Ranch activities should call 868-0563 or write Audubon Canyon Ranch, Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, Calif. 94970.

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Canyon Ranch:

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—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society:

From *Berkeley*—Mrs. James Baneroff, Mrs. Rexford Barton, Edward Carus, Jr., Melvin Cox, Mrs. John Hardy, Thomas D. Hinshaw, Bruce Kristal, Jean Marie Walker; From *Oakland & Piedmont*—Dr. Mark Blumberg & Family, Miss Wetherell Johnson, M/M Donald MacLennon, M/M Donald Montez, Mrs. Eric Sotcliffe, Mrs. Hope Worthen, Dr./M Raymond Young; From *San Francisco* M/M Stephen Adams, Natalae Brown, M/M Howard DeNike Jr., Mrs. Emilie Driskill & Son, Carol Gouverneur, Everdine Lampe, J. O. Lloyd, Myrtle Monson, Valerie Newman, M/M Jerry South, M/M Richard Thielen, Flora Torres, David Williamson; From *Albany*—Dr. & Mrs. Loring Dales; From *Castro Valley*—Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Lass; From *Palo Alto*—John H. Kieraldo, M.D.; From *Walnut Creek*—Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Allen; From *Gaithersburg, Maryland*—Mr. & Mrs. Richard Duerst.

—MRS. ZELLA CUSHMAN, *Membership Secretary.*

THE GULL BULLETIN BOARD

The *Annotated Field List of Birds of Northern California* is still available from Lucas College Book Store, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley CA 94704 for \$1.25 postpaid. Proceeds from the sale of this publication help support Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Recommended reading: "There Are Problems When Man Plays God" by Gilbert Rogin in *Sports Illustrated*, November 4th issue.

"Arizona's Winter Bird Visitors" in *Arizona Highways*, November.



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THE GULL

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The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.